

I claim:

1. A portable, table-top apparatus for throwing a pot comprising:

a base;

a shell or housing carried on said base;

a pottery wheel carried by said shell and adapted for rotational motion about a vertical axis, said pottery wheel comprising a wheel-head having an upwardly facing flat surface adapted to accept a mass of up to about 50 pounds of clay;

a plurality of rubber or elastomeric feet mounted to a bottom side of said base, a vertical displacement of said upwardly facing flat surface relative to bottoms of said plurality of feet being about 4 to 6 inches;

a drive-motor operatively coupled to said wheel-head to provide said rotational motion, said drive-motor being disposed, at least in part, above a plane of said upwardly facing flat surface; and

speed control circuitry connected to said drive-motor to control a rotational speed thereof.

2. The portable, table-top apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein to prevent vertical run-out said pottery wheel floats on one of a thrust washer and a thrust bearing.

3. The portable, table-top apparatus as claimed in claim 1, said pottery wheel further comprising a unitized assembly comprising a support/drive shaft that is rigidly and integrally coupled to said wheel-head.

4. The portable table-top apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said drive-motor is reversible.

5. The portable table-top apparatus as claimed in claim 4, wherein a speed of said drive-motor is adjustable from 0. to about 350 r.p.m. in each of a clockwise and a counterclockwise direction.

6. The portable table-top apparatus as claimed in claim 1, said drive-motor comprising an electric motor of about $1/8$ to $1/3$ horsepower.

7. The portable table-top apparatus as claimed in claim 1, said drive-motor being mounted in a motor enclosure recess in an underside of said shell.

8. The portable table-top apparatus as claimed 1, said drive-motor having an output shaft oriented in a downward

direction and aligned parallel to the vertical axis of said pottery wheel.

9. The portable table-top apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising an electrical power supply circuit having a switch interposed therein connected to said drive-motor.

10. The portable table-top apparatus as claimed in claim 9, said power supply circuit further comprising a circuit breaker.

11. The portable table-top apparatus as claimed in claim 10, wherein said switch and said circuit breaker are integrally combined.

12. The portable table-top apparatus as claimed in claim 1, said speed control circuitry comprising a microprocessor.

13. The portable table-top apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a control connected to said speed control circuitry to regulate and adjust said speed control circuitry.

14. The portable table-top apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a control jack connected to said speed control circuitry.

15. The portable table-top apparatus as claimed in claim 14, further comprising an external control connected to said control jack.

16. A portable, table-top apparatus for throwing a pot comprising:

a base;

an exoskeleton carried on said base;

a pottery wheel carried by said exoskeleton and adapted for rotational motion about a vertical axis, said pottery wheel comprising a wheel-head having an upwardly facing flat surface;

a drive-motor operatively coupled to said wheel-head to provide said rotational motion;

speed control circuitry connected to said drive-motor to control a rotational speed thereof; and

wherein said exoskeleton further comprises:

a pocket or bucket-holder in an upper side thereof, said bucket-holder being adapted to hold accessories in a fixed location relative to said pottery wheel, and

a splash pan that surrounds said wheel-head.

17. A portable, table-top apparatus for throwing a pot comprising:

a base;

an exoskeleton carried on said base;

a pottery wheel carried by said exoskeleton and adapted for rotational motion about a vertical axis, said pottery wheel comprising a wheel-head having an upwardly facing flat surface;

wherein said exoskeleton comprises a compound curve that subtends an arc of about 300 degrees around a circumference of said wheel-head.

18. The portable, table-top apparatus as claimed in claim 17, said exoskeleton comprising an injection molded plastic.

19. The portable, table-top apparatus as claimed in claim 17, said exoskeleton further comprising an upper-side hump having an upper surface adapted to accept a tool holder attached thereto, said hump comprising a cover over a drive-motor space.

20. The portable, table-top apparatus as claimed in claim 17, said exoskeleton further comprising a pocket or bucket-holder in an upper side thereof, said bucket-holder being

adapted to hold accessories in a fixed location relative to said pottery wheel.

21. The portable, table-top apparatus as claimed in claim 20, further comprising a plurality of bucket-holders in said exoskeleton.

22. The portable table-top apparatus as claimed in claim 21, wherein ones of said plurality of bucket-holders are arranged laterally on opposite sides of a longitudinal axis of said exoskeleton.

23. The portable table-top apparatus as claimed in claim 17, said exoskeleton further comprising:

an upper-side hump comprising a cover over a drive-motor space; and

a bucket-holder in an upper side thereof;

wherein said bucket-holder is disposed longitudinally between the vertical axis of said pottery wheel and said upper-side hump.

24. The portable table-top apparatus as claimed in claim 17, further comprising a splash pan that surrounds said wheel-head connected to said exoskeleton.